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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/611,700	07/01/2003	Takaaki Miyazaki	10998-024001 / GP2003-058	4446
26211	7590	12/14/2004	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON P.C. CITIGROUP CENTER 52ND FLOOR 153 EAST 53RD STREET NEW YORK, NY 10022-4611			CARIASO, ALAN B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2875	

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/611,700

Applicant(s)

MIYAZAKI, TAKAAKI

Examiner

Alan Cariaso

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[Handwritten signature]

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20030701</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by FLECK (US 6,268,702).
4. FLECK discloses a vehicular lamp (figs.3-6) comprising: a plurality of light emitting elements (LEDs 107-fig.4); a plurality of light emitting element lines (172), and each light emitting element line (172) separately connecting the light emitting elements in series (fig.5), wherein the light emitting elements (107) connected in series by any one of the light emitting lines (172) are symmetrically disposed about a first centerline bisecting the vehicular lamp (line between points 110 & 111 in fig.4) from a frontal view of the vehicular lamp; wherein one of the light emitting elements (107) is disposed on the first centerline (LEDs 107 between points 110 & 111); wherein the light emitting elements (107) connected in series by any one of the light emitting element lines (172) are disposed symmetrically with respect to a second centerline of the plane (an

imaginary horizontal center line), said second centerline being perpendicular to the first centerline; wherein the light emitting elements (107) are disposed in parallel (figs. 4 & 5) with each other on a circuit board (106,105).

5. Claims 1, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by CHIOU (US 5,418,697).

6. CHIOU discloses a vehicular lamp (figs.2-3) comprising: a plurality of light emitting elements (311); a plurality of light emitting element lines (31), and each light emitting element line (31) separately connecting the light emitting elements (311) in series (col.2, lines 18-24), wherein the light emitting elements (311) connected in series by any one of the light emitting lines (31) are symmetrically disposed about a first centerline (121,12) bisecting the vehicular lamp from a frontal view of the vehicular lamp (figs.2-3); wherein a frontal area of the lamp along the first centerline (121,12) is covered by a part of a vehicle body (41 in fig.6), and the lamp appears as two separate lamps (2,2 fig.3) on both sides of the part of the vehicle body (41); wherein the light emitting elements (311) are disposed on a circuit board (31).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. MURATA (US 4,935,665) shows a vehicular lamp having plural electric lines (5) disposed in parallel (figs.2,4,6,10), each line having series-connected LEDs (2, fig.9, col.6, lines 27-30), the array of LED lines being symmetrical about both

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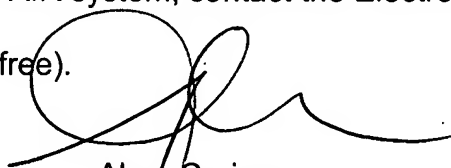
its perpendicular center axes, and is illustrated in figs 13,15 & 16, as having odd number of LEDs in one series such that one LED may be positioned in the center. SERIZAWA et al (US 4,733,335) show at least one vehicle lamp having a plurality of LEDs arranged in plural rows symmetrically arranged in both center perpendicular axes (fig.9), each row of LEDs connected in series (col.8, lines 50-57). WEBER (US 6,561,685) shows plural circuit lines (15,16) each with series connected LEDs (8). SOULES et al (US 4,503,488) shows an entire front vehicle light assembly (fig.1) that has two wire lines, a first line (29,38) having lamps (21,23,21,23) connected in series, and a second line having lamps (17,17) connected in series, where two sets of lamps (12,12') are apparent divided by a vehicle body part (front grill in fig.1) in the middle axis.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alan Cariaso whose telephone number is (571) 272-2366. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Alan Cariaso
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2875

AC
December 8, 2004